

# AGRIHACK TALENT: ACCELERATING DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



CTA PROJECTS

The future of food production, marketing and supply-chain management increasingly lies in the realm of information and communication technologies (ICTs). ICTs contribute to the transformation of agricultural value chains in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, improving productivity and market access in the agrifood sector.

CTA's *AgriHack Talent* initiative aims to strengthen ICT innovation in agriculture, as well as to accelerate youth entrepreneurship.

## APPROACH

The main focus of the AgriHack Talent initiative is on Pitch AgriHack, a competition targeting young companies already offering e-agriculture services. This is supported by follow-up activities such as provision of capacity building, mentorship and incubation opportunities, promotional and networking opportunities and facilitation of access to grants and investments to scale-up services offered.

## ACTIVITIES

Pitch AgriHack competitions involve a boot camp followed by a pitching competition for existing e-agriculture start-ups. Winners get opportunities to consolidate, pilot or upscale their platforms and services.

Winners of previous Pitch AgriHack competitions have received **mentoring and incubation** support to bring their services to commercial fruition. Forthcoming Pitch AgriHacks offer **grants, market linkage and networking opportunities** to the participants.

The project documents, shares and **promotes awareness of the achievements** of the best start-ups involved in the programme. This gives the promising businesses high profile and increases opportunities for them to **attract investors and business partners** to further their ambitions. Lessons learned about how young businesses involved in the programme address challenges they face are also analysed and shared.

The Pitch AgriHack model is also used as a means to **identify successful young businesses** that can offer services to agricultural stakeholders involved in a specific project. This is the case in the iDeal Burkina project that is implemented by Yam-Pukri in Burkina Faso.

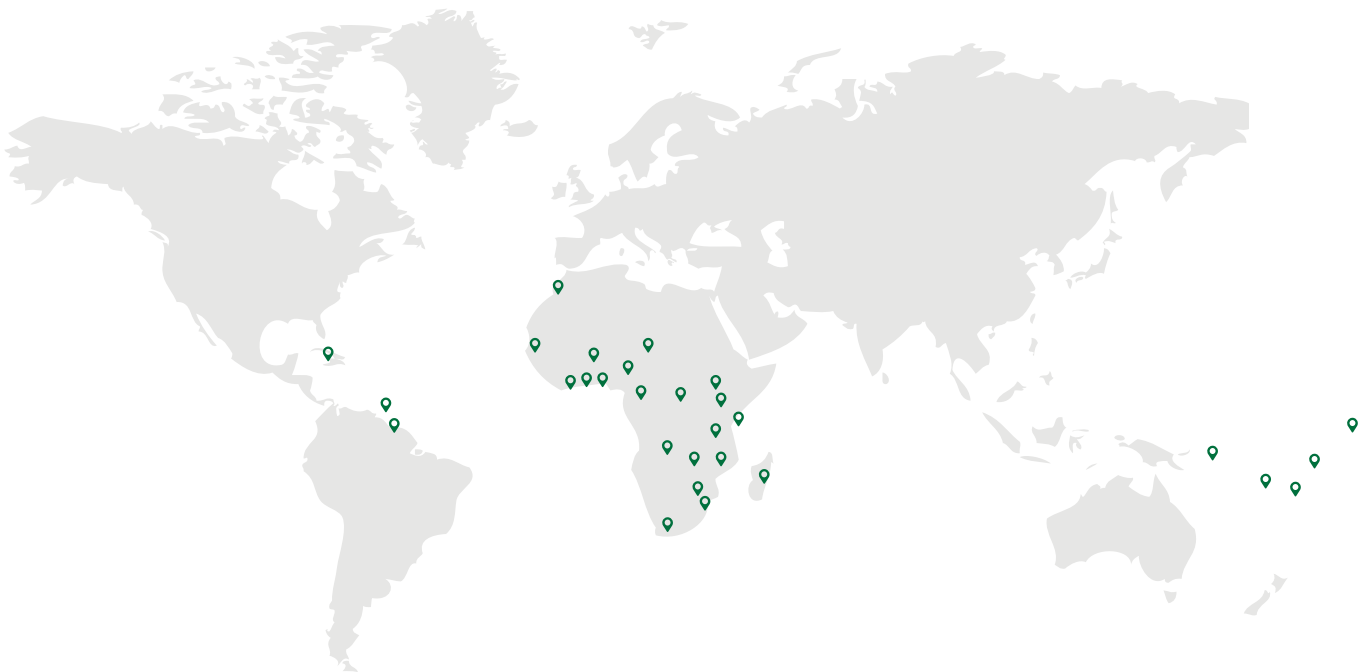
# IMPACT

Up to 2018, some 1,000 young entrepreneurs (aged between 18 and 35 years) have taken part in the AgriHack Talent programme and about 30 ICT hubs or institutions from about 40 countries have been involved. Since the launch of the AgriHack Talent initiative, at least 1,000,000 farmers and agricultural stakeholders have been reached by services provided through the use of applications developed and start-ups involved have raised more than €2 million from other investors and partners. Half of the winners of the 2018 edition were women-led companies.

# COUNTRIES

Applicants have come from the following countries:

Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), Ethiopia, Fiji, \* Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, \* Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Solomon Islands, \* South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



\* Participants from these countries took part in the Pacific AgriHack Lab, in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

# PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

African Development Bank Group  
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa  
Suguba

Read more:  
[www.cta.int/en/projects/agrihack-talent](http://www.cta.int/en/projects/agrihack-talent)

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